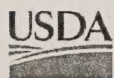


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Forest
Service

September 2007



Record of Decision

Northeast McKenzie Allotment Management Plan Revisions

Dakota Prairie Grasslands

McKenzie County, North Dakota

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Preface

The McKenzie Ranger District, Dakota Prairie Grasslands, has prepared this Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the effects of livestock grazing in 28 allotments in the northeast portion of the district. The district is part of the Little Missouri National Grassland. These grazing allotments would be managed by the Forest Service through established grazing associations to help maintain and improve the National Grasslands.

Since the National Grasslands were developed, the Forest Service and the McKenzie County Grazing Association (MCGA) have been cooperatively managing livestock grazing on the Little Missouri National Grassland in McKenzie County. This cooperative management is outlined in a Grazing and Management Agreement (commonly referred to as the Grazing Agreement) between the Forest Service and the MCGA (Grazing Agreement 1989 as amended and reissued 1999). The Grazing Agreement acts as the permit for livestock grazing on National Forest System lands within the county. The Grazing Agreement spells out the terms and conditions under which the MCGA administers permits for individual permittees to graze livestock within an allotment. Grazing allotments can be, and usually are, made up of a combination of National Forest System lands, North Dakota State lands, and private lands.

The Northeast (NE) McKenzie project area is located in western North Dakota, McKenzie County, about 30 miles northeast of Watford City. The project area includes 28 allotments, which comprise three pastures: Pasture 12 has 13 allotments, Pasture 13 has 10 allotments and Pasture 14 has five allotments. The allotments include 50,957 acres of National Forest System lands, 23,375 acres of private lands, and 3,394 acres of State lands. Intermingled State and private lands within the federal allotments are managed indirectly by the Forest Service as part of the allotment. Pastures 12 and 13 make up an area south of Lake Sakakawea, and Pasture 14 encompasses the Blue Buttes area. These areas are disjointed from the rest of the Ranger District, and are surrounded by private and Tribal lands.

The Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS's) for the Northeast McKenzie Allotment Management Plan Revisions have been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the following: The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974, as amended, to the extent that it applies to the National Grasslands; the National Forest Management Act; the National Environmental Policy Act; the Rescission Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-19); and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (Grasslands Plan). The Final EIS documents the analysis of a "No Action - no grazing" alternative and two action alternatives to address desired conditions described in the Grasslands Plan.

Changes Between Draft and Final EIS

There were very few changes between the Draft EIS and Final EIS. The attached Errata (Appendix A) clarify, correct and amend information disclosed in the Draft EIS, and update the effects based on the best information available at the time of my decision. I do

not believe that the additions and updated information displayed in the Errata result in any substantive change to alternatives or represent significantly new impacts. The aforementioned changes fell within the scope of the analysis depicted in the Draft EIS. Therefore, I have decided that issuance of a supplemental Draft EIS is not warranted. Rather than produce a new document, the Errata and responses to comments on the Draft EIS have been attached to the Draft EIS, and together these documents constitute a Final EIS.

Decision and Reasons for the Decision

Purpose and Need for Action

An interdisciplinary team identified the desired condition for the project area based on the Grasslands Plan, determined the existing conditions and then compared the two. The difference between the desired conditions and the existing conditions specified the purpose and need for the Northeast McKenzie Allotment Management Plan Revisions project. By comparing desired to existing conditions the interdisciplinary team determined the need for change for livestock grazing management. For the most part, the project area largely meets the desired resource conditions and is meeting direction outlined in the Grasslands Plan. There are several reasons for this, including good stewardship, highly productive soils, and good moisture conditions in recent years. However, because livestock grazing is a continuous activity, rather than a one-time event, resources that are currently moving toward or meeting the desired condition could deteriorate without attentive management. The following list summarizes the purpose and need for this project. A detailed description of the need for action on an allotment by allotment basis can be found in Table 2 in Appendix B.

There is a need to:

- Work continually with livestock permittees and operators to coordinate grazing management that will balance their needs with desired resource conditions.
- Consult and coordinate with representatives from American Indian Tribes on management in the Blue Buttes American Indian Traditional Use Area.
- Manage grazing to maintain high soil productivity.
- Manage livestock to improve conditions on some streams and other riparian areas; maintain good conditions that exist in other areas.
- Manage livestock grazing so that cattle do not adversely affect bur oak stands.
- Provide sensitive butterfly habitat by allowing light grazing use in known sensitive butterfly areas to promote forb diversity and plant density.
- Manage grazing to maintain at least 20-30% high herbaceous structure across the project area in non-drought years, with most of the remainder being moderate structure. Emphasize high structure within one mile of known grouse leks, and in areas with known occurrences of sensitive bird and butterfly species.
- Manage grazing to maintain at least 15 – 20% late seral herbaceous communities across the project area, with most of the remainder being in mid seral condition. Emphasize mid and late seral communities within one mile of known grouse leks, and in areas with known occurrences of sensitive bird and butterfly species.

- Emphasize no grazing or light grazing from October to June 15 within one mile of known grouse leks in order to help ensure that existing fall cover is available for spring nesting.
- Implement a specific drought management strategy to reduce the impacts of drought.

Decision

I have selected the Proposed Action, or Alternative 3, including all mitigation and changes identified in the Errata, for this project. This means that I am determining site-specific grazing management actions that will meet or move toward resource objectives on the 28 allotments in Pastures 12, 13, and 14 of the McKenzie Ranger District (see Map A, attached). Grazing will occur in a manner consistent with direction in the Grasslands Plan and applicable laws. This decision takes an adaptive management approach to allow flexibility for both the Forest Service and the livestock operators to manage properly under changing conditions. Adaptive management is defined as a type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing process. Adaptive management involves planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and incorporating new knowledge to modify future management. It will allow managers to respond to potential changes away from desired conditions more effectively and efficiently. The adaptive management principles outlined in Alternative 3 create a decision that can remain viable for an extended period.

For the most part, livestock management in the allotments will not change because existing conditions already meet, or are moving toward, desired conditions. Some site specific resource concerns will be addressed immediately. Alternative 3, including allotment-specific desired conditions and management (with updates from the Errata), is fully described in Appendix B.

I have selected Alternative 3 because it provides the greatest attainment of the project's purpose and need as well as a reasonable response to the public's issues and concerns. I carefully studied the issues identified for the project during the scoping and public involvement process. Following is a summary of the effects of Alternative 3 related to each issue as I considered them in my decision:

➤ **Issue Statement 1: Changes in livestock grazing may impact individual operators and the local economy.**

Overall minimal economic impacts are expected from Alternative 3. There will be little change from the current management. The number of Head Months allowed to graze in the project area will continue as it has over the past several years. Individual permittees may require a financial investment to develop future structural range improvements. Other adaptive management tools, such as herding, will have direct costs to the permittee in time and money spent to implement the grazing management tools. These management practices may have costs to operators, but they may also have economic benefit. For example, improvements may make operations more efficient or retain livestock use that might otherwise have been reduced in order to meet desired conditions.

- **Issue Statement 2: Livestock grazing may impact the management indicator species plains sharp-tailed grouse by reducing herbaceous structure used for nesting and brooding cover, and by reducing diversity of forage plants used by grouse.**

Alternative 3 will maintain or slightly increase the habitat suitability for sharp-tailed grouse over the next 15 years. There is no expected decrease in acres of herbaceous structure identified as nesting or brooding habitat during average and above average moisture years. The drought strategy identifies priority areas centered on sharp-tail grouse nesting areas, which will facilitate quicker recovery of high structure following drought periods.

- **Issue Statement 3: Livestock grazing may impact streams and riparian areas by over utilizing vegetation and causing erosion in those areas.**

The project area currently meets the Grasslands Plan objective of moving at least 80% of riparian areas and woody draws toward a self-perpetuating plant and water communities that have a desired diversity and density of understory and overstory vegetation. Under Alternative 3, stream conditions will be maintained or improved, and will exhibit less functional fluctuation overall. Adaptive management tools may be implemented along streams and riparian areas where monitoring indicates a downward change.

- **Issue Statement 4: Livestock grazing may affect sensitive bird and butterfly habitat by lowering seral stage and reducing structure in herbaceous communities.**

Under the management of Alternative 3, the level of habitat suitability for these species is expected to be maintained or slightly increased over the next 15 years. The adaptive management tools and drought management strategy would protect and enhance habitat. The Dakota skipper, a sensitive species and also a candidate for federal listing as a threatened or endangered species, would be protected at sites where it is known to occur in the project area.

- **Issue Statement 5: The drought strategy may impact livestock operations, wildlife and plants.**

The Forest Service and grazing permittees have worked together in the past to properly manage livestock during drought. The drought strategy of Alternative 3 is somewhat different in that it identifies resource objectives during drought, and identifies tools that can be used to meet those objectives. The implementation of a drought strategy will allow managers and grazing permittees to react early and adjust livestock numbers depending on conditions. This strategy will manage livestock grazing with the objective of maintaining a specified level of high structure and moderate structure herbaceous communities in the project area. The high herbaceous structure will be emphasized in high priority areas for wildlife habitat. This will ensure that more residual cover is provided in areas important to the management indicator species, sharp-tailed grouse, and sensitive species. The drought strategy will help vegetation recover quickly after drought subsides, maintaining its diversity and seral composition.

Other Alternatives Considered

In addition to the selected alternative, I considered two other alternatives, which are discussed below. The selected alternative uses the best science in an adaptive management process and is the environmentally preferred alternative. It best meets the goals and objectives of section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act, which calls for balance and harmony between man and nature. It best enhances native species and habitats, diversity, and soil and water conditions while fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. A more detailed comparison of the three alternatives can be found in Chapter 2 of the EIS.

Alternative 1 - No Action – No Livestock Grazing

Under this alternative, domestic livestock grazing on all National Forest System lands within the project area would be discontinued. Existing Forest Service owned water developments and fences would be removed.

This alternative does not meet the purpose and need to graze livestock and work with permittees to balance their needs with desired resources conditions. There is no balance between livestock grazing and resource needs. While many resources would improve in the short-term with no grazing, in the longer term no grazing, which is a natural disturbance in our grasslands ecosystem, would be detrimental to most resources on the landscape.

Alternative 2 – No Change – Continue Current Grazing Management

Under this alternative, permitted livestock grazing will continue on all allotments as it has over the past 3 to 5 years. No adaptive management practices will be used. All existing rangeland management structural improvements will remain in place and be maintained.

While current management is mostly meeting Grasslands Plan objectives, standards and guidelines, this alternative does not provide a drought strategy, nor does it provide a plan to continue meeting resource objectives into the future. Site-specific resource concerns are not addressed.

Public Involvement

A scoping package was mailed on the proposed action to 115 potentially interested or affected individuals, organizations, local and state governments, and local, state and federal agencies on April 9, 2004. A public meeting was held in Watford City, North Dakota on April 29, 2004. Due to the controversy surrounding allotment management planning on the Dakota Prairie Grassland, the Forest Service decided to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). Consequently, a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on August 10, 2004. The Notice of Intent notified the public that a Draft EIS would be prepared for this project. The comment period associated with the Notice of Intent was 45 days.

Fifteen individuals, agencies and organizations provided comments on the proposed action. These comments are in the project file, and are available at the McKenzie Ranger District in Watford City, North Dakota. Comments from the scoping were then used to develop issues for the Draft EIS.

A Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS appeared in the Federal Register on July 8, 2005 and was published in the Bismarck Tribune on July 13, 2005; 121 letters regarding availability of the Draft EIS and request for comments were mailed to the public on July 8, 2005. The comment period for the Northeast McKenzie County DEIS ended on August 22, 2005. Ten individuals, groups, or agencies responded with comments. The Forest Service met with the pasture directors and permittees on February 22, 2007 and on March 14, 2007 at the Pastures 12, 13, and 14 spring pasture meetings to review and gather any addition comments or concerns.

Alternatives Considered But Not Studied in Detail

Federal agencies are required by NEPA to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives and to briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that were not developed in detail (40 CFR 1502.14). Three alternatives are required for range planning: 1) no grazing, 2) continuing current grazing management, and 3) the proposed action. No other specific alternatives were brought forward by the public. I have determined that this required range of alternatives adequately addresses the issues and development of additional alternatives was not necessary.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring is the process of collecting information to determine the effectiveness of management actions in meeting prescribed objectives. I am including all of the monitoring described in Chapter 2 of the EIS as part of my decision. This includes implementation and effectiveness monitoring. Project implementation monitoring monitors compliance with the Grassland Plan standards and guidelines. Effectiveness monitoring evaluates how effective our management actions are at achieving desired outcomes. It is important to recognize that the availability of funding and personnel resources will determine what limitations will be placed on monitoring activities.

Monitoring will focus on both short-term and long-term monitoring. Short-term monitoring is annual allotment resource inspections that will focus on: 1) rangeland readiness, 2) forage utilization, 3) riparian areas and wooded draws, and 4) sensitive butterfly locations. Long-term monitoring will focus on: 1) grassland structure and lek locations, 2) seral stage and ecological status for herbaceous plant communities, 3) proper functioning condition of riparian areas, and 4) regeneration of wooded draw and bur oak habitats. This monitoring is further detailed in Appendix B.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

NEPA at 40 CFR 1502.25(a) directs “to the fullest extent possible, agencies shall prepare draft environmental impact statements concurrently with and integrated with ...other environmental review laws and executive orders.”

The selected alternative is consistent with the goals, objectives, standards and guidelines of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan (Grasslands Plan). The project area falls within the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Rolling Prairie Geographic Area. This geographic area has specific direction that supplements the

grasslands-wide goals, objectives, standards and guidelines. A detailed description of the grasslands-wide and Rolling Prairie Geographic Area goals, objectives, standards and guidelines can be found in Chapter 1 and 2 of the Grasslands Plan and Appendix A of the this project's EIS. In addition to the grasslands-wide and geographic area direction, the Grasslands Plan identifies standards and guidelines for specific management areas. A detailed description of these can be found in Chapter 3 of the Grasslands Plan and Appendix A of this project's EIS. I have reviewed the Grasslands Plan to evaluate whether or not the effects of the selected alternative will meet the standards and guidelines contained in the Grasslands Plan, and find that the selected alternative does meet these standard and guidelines. I find my decision is consistent with the goals, objectives and direction provided in the Grasslands Plan, Dakota Prairie Grasslands, and that no amendment of the Plan is necessary to implement my decision. A consistency "check" is included in the project record.

A note about the 2006 Livestock Grazing Record of Decision for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands (2006 ROD) and this decision: The 2006 ROD applies the Demonstration Project provisions to allotment management planning processes that begin the NEPA process after September 20, 2006 (the date of the 2006 ROD). Since this project was well underway at that time, it is exempt from these provisions. It should be noted that since this project area largely meets direction in the Grasslands Plan already, the provision in the 2006 ROD giving the option to change standards to guidelines would not have changed anything in this project or decision.

The purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 are to "encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man." I believe Alternative 3 meets the purposes of the Act because of the reasons already stated and as disclosed in this record of decision and associated Final EIS.

This decision is consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The selected alternative was evaluated with regard to threatened and endangered animal and plant species. Findings are summarized in the wildlife and vegetation resources of the Final EIS. There are no threatened an endangered animal or plant species that nest, breed or inhabit the Little Missouri National Grassland the year-round. There is no designated critical habitat identified for these species, either. The Forest Service has informally consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife service to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act. This information is in the project record.

Federal law and direction applicable to sensitive species include the National Forest Management Act and Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2670. Those plants and animals for which population viability is a concern are periodically identified by the Regional Forester. In making my decision, I have reviewed the analysis of projected effects on all sensitive species listed as occurring or possibly occurring on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Based on this discussion, I have concluded that Alternative 3 will have no adverse impacts on sensitive species. Biological evaluations are in the project record and summarized in the EIS.

The Forest Service has consulted with the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (NDSHPO) to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1999. Before any ground disturbing activities, such as new fences or water developments, take place a cultural resource inventory would be completed. No improvement will be placed within the boundaries of known or newly discovered sites. A complete cultural report and documentation of concurrence by the NDSHPO are in the project record.

The Proposed Action is consistent with The Clean Water Act of 1972 as amended in 1977 and 1987. Alternative 3 meets the Grasslands Plan objectives for soil and water. There are no 303(d) listed streams in the project area. Documentation is in the project record.

Executive Order 12898, issued in 1994, ordered federal agencies to identify and address the issues of environmental justice (i.e. adverse human health and environmental effects of agency programs that disproportionately impact minority and low income populations). The Environmental Justice analysis conducted for this EIS determined that the Proposed Action will not have a disproportional impact on minority or low income populations. The Environmental Justice analysis is in the project record.

Implementation

Implementation Date

If no appeals are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, 5 business days from the close of the appeal filing period. When appeals are filed, implementation may occur on, but not before, the 15th business day following the date of the last appeal disposition.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.11. Only individuals or organizations that submitted comments or other expression of interest during the comment period may appeal. A written appeal must be submitted within 45 days following the publication date of the legal notice of this decision in the Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck, North Dakota. It is the responsibility of the appellant to ensure their appeal is received in a timely manner. The publication date of the legal notice of the decision in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Appellants should not rely on date or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Paper appeals must be submitted to:

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Or

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region
ATTN: Appeal Deciding Officer
200 East Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802
Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Electronic appeals must be submitted to: appeals-northern-regional-office@fs.fed.us

Faxed appeals must be submitted to: Fax number (406) 329-3411

In electronic appeals, the subject line should contain the name of the project being appealed. An automated response will confirm your electronic appeal has been received. Electronic appeals must be submitted in MS Word, Word Perfect, or Rich Text Format (RTF).

It is the appellant's responsibility to provide sufficient project- or activity-specific evidence and rationale, focusing on the decision, to show why the decision should be reversed. The appeal must be filed with the Appeal Deciding Officer in writing. At a minimum, the appeal must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 215.14, and include the following information: the appellant's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; a signature, or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the appeal); when multiple names are listed on an appeal, identification of the lead appellant and verification of the identity of the lead appellant upon request; the name of the project or activity for which the decision was made, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the date of the decision; the regulation under which the appeal is being filed, when there is an option to appeal under either 36 CFR 215 or 36 CFR 251, subpart C; any specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks and rationale for those changes; any portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees, and explanation for the disagreement; why the appellant believes the Responsible Official's decision failed to consider the comments; and, how the appellant believes the decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy.

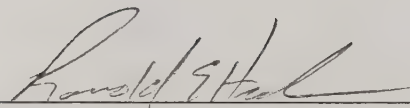
If an appeal is received on this project there may be informal resolution meetings and/or conference calls between the Responsible Official and the appellant. These discussions would take place within 15 days after the closing date for filing an appeal. All such meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending any informal resolution discussions, please contact the Responsible Official or monitor the following website for postings about current appeals in the Northern Region of the Forest Service:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/projects/appeal_index.shtml."

This decision is also subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 251 (Subpart C) by the permittee, McKenzie County Grazing Association. They may choose to appeal under either 215 or 251, but not both. They will be notified of their appeal rights and requirements of appeal under cover of a letter.

Contact Person

The responsible official is Ronald E. Hecker, District Ranger on the McKenzie Ranger District, Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Copies of the Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement are available on the internet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/dakotaprairie/resources.htm> or a paper copy will be mailed to those who request a copy. Should you desire a copy of the Final EIS and the Record of Decision, please contact Libby Knotts, Project Team Leader, McKenzie Ranger District, 1901 South Main Street, Watford City, ND 58854; or phone (701) 842-2393.



9/21/07
Date

RONALD E. HECKER
District Ranger

Appendix A – Errata

Changes and Clarifications between Draft EIS and Final EIS

<i>Page of Draft EIS</i>	<i>Change or Clarification</i>
Pages 10 and 47	Clarification: It was stated in the DEIS: “Drought conditions occur about 40% of the time, and are usually of short duration (2-3 years).” Comments on the draft EIS questioned the accuracy of this statement. The statement was part of a general characterization of the project area. This information was taken from the Little Missouri National Grassland Rangeland Assessment. The publication “Drought Management on Range and Pastureland”, which the proposed action references in its drought strategy, says, “Drought is generally defined as a prolonged period during which annual precipitation is less than 75 percent of average. Based upon this definition, drought has occurred in 21 percent of the years in the northern Great Plains since 1940 (Holocheck et al. 1989).” Whether the correct percent is 40 or 21, drought is still a significant factor on the northern Great Plains, and the proposed drought strategy is designed to reduce drought impacts to wildlife.
Appendix B, pages 107 and 108	Change: The proposed management for Allotment 14-1 included fencing two wetlands to exclude cattle. Comments from the allotment’s operator indicated that there may be other ways to protect the wetlands from grazing effects. For the FEIS, it was decided to add adaptive management to the Proposed Management for Allotment 14-1 that would allow changes in grazing management to keep cattle away from the south end of the unit (where the wetlands are located) until the natural hydroperiod for the wetlands has ended; however, fencing the wetlands is still an adaptive management option. Monitoring will occur.
Appendix B, pages 107 and 108	Clarification and Change: The proposed management for Allotment 14-1 included changing utilization days for Chimney Butte, Day Place and Keogh Horse Pasture to ensure delayed grazing occurs each year. Since the DEIS, the allotment has changed operators. The current operator uses the units in such a way that the intent of delayed grazing is met in Chimney Butte and the Horse Pasture. Use of the Day Place will change to provide delayed grazing every other year.
Appendix B, pages 107 and 108	Clarification: Since the DEIS, a project to alter fencing in 14-1 has been completed. The new fenceline caused an additional water tank to be located on private lands at the north end of the Summer Pasture; that should draw cattle away from some bur oak stands and areas of heavy use on the west side of the allotment. Monitoring will

<i>Page of Draft EIS</i>	<i>Change or Clarification</i>
	determine if further adaptive management measures are necessary.
Pages 37 and 57	Clarification: The definition of a head month in FSM 2230.5 is one month's use and occupancy of the range by one animal. For grazing fee purposes, it is a month's use and occupancy of range by one weaned or adult cow with or without calf, bull, steer, heifer, horse, burro, or mule, or 5 sheep or goats. The DEIS used the term as it is used for billing purposes for cattle, which means that unweaned calves are not counted separately.
Appendix B, page 104	Change: The proposed management for Allotment 12-7 included prescribed burning or mowing on the east half of the A unit to increase palatability of crested wheatgrass and increase cattle use of the area. These proposals will be changed to potential adaptive management rather than something to immediately implement. In 2006, the operator began placing supplemental feed tubs in unutilized areas to draw cattle away from heavily used areas around water sources. As a result, areas in unit A proposed for burning or mowing in the DEIS are now receiving some utilization. Monitoring will determine whether this practice continues to achieve desired results or if adaptive management is required.
Appendix B, page 105	Change: There will be added adaptive management for Allotment 13-1. An existing electric fence may be converted to permanent. Converting the electric fence to permanent, with some minor location adjustments to include all of the crested wheatgrass in one unit, would effectively continue current management. Water may be developed on the west side of the E unit (west of the highway), which would increase distribution. Currently the west side of the highway does not receive any use. Use in the crested E Unit would be extended, resulting in additional deferment for the native units. Grazing of the E unit would be managed to meet allotment objectives for structure and seral stage as identified in Appendix B.
Page 64	Change: Since release of the DEIS, oil and gas development has increased more than anticipated; however, the increase does not change the cumulative effects analysis for resources.

Appendix B – Alternative 3 in Detail

Alternative 3 – Proposed Action: Grazing with adaptive management grazing practices

The Proposed Action will continue livestock grazing on 28 allotments in Pastures 12, 13 and 14 of the McKenzie Ranger District. Grazing will occur in a manner consistent with direction in the Grasslands Plan and applicable laws. Livestock grazing is a continual activity, rather than a one-time event. As such, management circumstances and resource conditions are prone to change due to events such as changes in operators, changes in cattle behavior or changes in weather. The proposal takes an adaptive management approach to allow flexibility for both the Forest Service and the livestock operators to manage properly under changing conditions. Adaptive management is defined as a type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing process. Adaptive management involves planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and incorporating new knowledge to modify future management. Although resources are mostly meeting or moving toward desired conditions in the project area, adaptive management will allow managers to respond to potential changes away from desired conditions.

For the most part, livestock management in the allotments will not change because existing conditions meet, or are moving toward, desired conditions. Some site-specific resource concerns will be addressed immediately. Monitoring and adaptive management will be used to address other concerns as needed.

- a) Improve conditions of, or protect, some stream segments and other riparian areas identified in allotments in Table 2.
- b) Manage livestock grazing so that cattle do not adversely affect bur oak stands.
- c) Provide sensitive butterfly habitat by allowing light grazing use in known sensitive butterfly areas to promote forb diversity and plant density.
- d) Manage grazing to maintain at least 20-30% high herbaceous structure across biologically capable lands in the project area in non-drought years, with most of the remainder being moderate structure. Emphasize high structure within one mile of known grouse leks, and in areas with known occurrences of sensitive bird and butterfly species.
- e) Manage grazing to maintain at least 15 – 20% late seral herbaceous communities across the project area, with most of the remainder being in mid seral condition. Emphasize mid and late seral communities within one mile of known grouse leks, and in areas with known occurrences of sensitive bird and butterfly species.
- f) Emphasize no grazing or light grazing from October to June 15 within one mile of known grouse leks in order to help ensure that existing fall cover is available for spring nesting.
- g) Work continually with livestock permittees and operators to coordinate grazing management that will balance their needs with desired resource conditions.
- h) Implement the following specific drought management strategy:

- Use the stocking guides in the publication *Drought Management on Range and Pastureland* to determine stocking levels during drought unless interdisciplinary collaboration provides rationale to deviate from them. The publication suggests stocking determinations that consider weather variables and soil moisture content. This will allow managers to react early to drought conditions.
- As applicable, other drought management publications and ideas may be used as tools to manage livestock during drought.
- Manage grazing during drought with the objective of maintaining at least 10% of herbaceous communities across biologically capable lands in the project area with high structure and at least 40% with moderate structure. This will help ensure that the project area is not grazed evenly and low throughout the project area.
- Emphasize management for high structure in drought years within 11 areas where maintaining grass structure is a high priority for wildlife habitat. These priority areas are shown on map C in Appendix C of the EIS. This will help ensure that better grass cover is provided in areas important to sharp-tailed grouse and sensitive species.
- To maintain grass vigor through drought, allow maximum utilization of 50% on native grasses and 60% on introduced grasses during drought years.

Maximum stocking will be the allotment Preference Head Months as outlined in the grazing agreement between the Forest Service and the permittee, the McKenzie County Grazing Association. Annual stocking rates will be determined each year based on progress toward desired conditions, weather conditions and considering needs of the livestock operators. The Natural Resources Conservation Service stocking equation will be used as a guide to determine stocking levels when changes are necessary. Season of Use will be determined annually and will depend largely upon weather. It will generally run from May 1 to December 31, with variation by allotment. Livestock may be any class as long as desired conditions are being met or measurable progress is being made toward desired conditions.

The proposal includes allotment-specific desired conditions, needs, and management proposals. They are detailed in Table 2. These allotment-specific proposals are designed to contribute toward meeting the overall purpose and need for the project area.

Monitoring will be done to see if the management practices are allowing resources to meet or move toward desired conditions. When monitoring indicates that management practices are not allowing for adequate movement toward meeting the desired conditions, changes will be made based on the adaptive management listed in Table 2.

All existing rangeland structural improvements will remain in place and will be maintained. Proposed rangeland structural improvements are identified in Table 2.

Mitigation for Alternative 3 – Proposed Action

The Forest Service developed the following design criteria to be used as part of Alternative 3:

- Prior to ground disturbing activities, survey each site for sensitive and watch plant species, heritage resources and wildlife resource concerns as appropriate to meet Grasslands Plan direction. Redesign projects to avoid adverse effects to these resources.
- Areas disturbed by rangeland improvements will be seeded as appropriate using native seed mixtures that provide forage or cover for wildlife and reduce soil erosion.
- Burn plans will be developed and approved for prescribed fire prior to implementing on-the-ground actions.
- Immediately implement management tools to incorporate three to five years of rest in known Dakota skipper sites, and then reevaluate species needs.

Monitoring

Rangeland Improvement Practices and Monitoring Strategy

Implementation of rangeland improvement practices will move the resource toward or to meet the desired conditions. To ensure that this occurs, monitoring and evaluation is a must. Effective monitoring and evaluation fosters improved management and more informed management decisions. It helps determine how the Grasslands Plan is being implemented, whether Allotment Management Plan (AMP) implementation is achieving desired outcomes, and whether assumptions made in the planning process are valid. Monitoring and evaluation are learning tools that form the backbone of adaptive management. It makes a static AMP a dynamic, relevant and useful document.

It is important to recognize that the availability of funding and personnel resources will determine what limitations will be placed on rangeland structural implementation and subsequent monitoring activities. A monitoring strategy for the 28 AMPs in the NE McKenzie project area should be to monitor as many allotments as possible for the short-term implementation monitoring. Upland vegetation, wooded draws, and riparian areas will be the focus of allotment monitoring. The individual allotment objectives will determine what monitoring will take place. Monitoring will determine when the prescribed management is not meeting resource objectives and when an adaptive management change is needed.

Short-Term Monitoring

Annual monitoring techniques will vary depending on the resource being monitored. The following monitoring techniques will be used for the short-term for the major resources:

Annual Allotment Resource Inspections

Rangeland Readiness: Indicators used to determine rangeland readiness are soil and vegetation conditions. Rangeland is generally ready for grazing when plants have reached the defined stage of growth at which grazing may begin under the specific allotment management plan without long-lasting damage.

Forage Utilization: Forage utilization is a tool used to evaluate rangeland for proper grazing use by determining the percent of plant growth that is eaten or destroyed by grazing animals. Cattle grazing on native rangeland is a management technique to maintain the plant species composition when conducted in a proper manner. Proper grazing management includes matching the needs of the plant community with the needs

of the livestock. The proper amount of forage grazed should be about 50% on native rangelands and 60% on introduced species such as crested wheatgrass.

Riparian Areas and Wooded Draws: Visually assess that stream bank conditions are not deteriorating, and visually assess that shrubs and other woody species are not over-utilized during dormancy. This would be accomplished by annual on-the-ground inspections that document the current condition.

Other Resource Inspections

Sensitive Butterfly Species: Survey known sensitive butterfly locations and analysis area to determine trend of the populations.

Long-term Monitoring

Monitoring techniques will vary depending on the resource being monitored. The following monitoring techniques will be used for the long-term for the major resources:

Grassland Structure Monitoring

The need to monitor grassland structure is identified in the Grasslands Plan. Grassland structure will be measured using the visual obstruction reading (VOR) method. Sampling will occur in the fall. The amount and diversity of residual cover has repeatedly been demonstrated to be a critical habitat component for sharp-tailed grouse and other wildlife species. For purposes of classifying grassland structure levels, the following definitions will be used:

- Low Structure = 1.0-1.49 inches VOR
- Moderate Structure = 1.5-3.49 inches VOR
- High Structure = greater than 3.5 inches VOR

Seral Stage and Ecological Status

The Grasslands Plan established management objectives for seral stages. These seral stages are intended to provide guidance on the desired plant species composition for herbaceous plant communities. Ecological status provides an assessment for how well the ecosystem is functioning. Different attributes will be used to assess ecological status, which is defined as the present condition of the vegetative community on a site expressed as percent similarity to the reference condition for that site.

Riparian, Wooded Draw, and Bur Oak Monitoring

Under direction in the Grasslands Plan, most perennial streams are to be managed in a manner that promotes "proper functioning condition". This monitoring process classifies riparian function as follows:

- Proper Functioning Condition
- Functional At Risk (upward, downward, or no apparent trends)
- Non-functional

These ratings characterize riparian conditions based on the interaction of geology, soils, water, and vegetation.

Management direction is also provided in the Grasslands Plan to provide for tree and shrub regeneration in most riparian and wooded draw habitats. Monitoring for woody

regeneration will involve application of a more intensive woody species regeneration method.

If the results of monitoring indicate standards and/or guidelines, or desired resource conditions are not being achieved as predicted, then other adaptive management strategies will be implemented (i.e. reduction in AUMs, change season of use, rest, etc.) to move towards and/or meet the desired condition.

Monitoring and Implementation Plan

Monitoring will consist of implementation monitoring and effectiveness monitoring. Project implementation monitoring monitors compliance with Grasslands Plan standards and guidelines. Effectiveness monitoring evaluates how effective our management actions are at achieving desired outcomes.

Table 1: Proposed monitoring plan to ensure that the resource conditions are moving towards or meeting the desired conditions in a timely manner.

RESOURCE	UNIT OF MEASURE	MONITORING METHOD	SCALE	FREQUENCY OF REPORTING
Rangeland Health	Percent of forage utilized in allotment	Degree of use	Analysis area	1-2 years
Range Readiness	Acres of allotment meeting range readiness standards	Vegetative stages of key species	Analysis area	1-2 years
Sharp-tailed grouse leks and nesting habitat	Number of leks, acres of potential nesting habitat and VOR measurements within potential nesting habitat	Lek surveys and VOR transects	Analysis area	5 years
Sensitive butterflies	Number of sensitive butterfly locations	Sensitive butterfly surveys	Currently known sensitive butterfly locations and analysis area	2 years
Seral Stage	Percent of acres in each seral stage class	Analysis of dominance type groups	Analysis area	10 years
Streams	Percent of streams in Proper Functioning Condition	Proper Functioning Condition	Major streams in analysis area	5 years
Wooded Draws	Percent of communities with desired diversity and density of overstory and understory vegetation	Canopy cover structure classes and species regeneration	Green ash / American elm and bur oak woodlands in analysis area	5 years

Map A, attached, shows the project area vicinity and the allotments. Other maps of the project area, including the drought priority areas, grouse leks and nesting areas, streams and PFC ratings, and sensitive butterfly locations, are included in Appendix C of the EIS.

Table 2 on the following pages provides allotment-specific conditions and management. First, some of the terms and bullet statements used in the table are explained. Then the table of allotments begins on the next page and is ordered by allotment number.

Table 2: Allotment-specific desired conditions and proposed actions.

<p>GROUSE HABITAT OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Emphasized within 1-mile radius of known grouse leks Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Emphasize delayed grazing</p> <p>SENSITIVE BUTTERFLY OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Emphasize high structure Emphasize mid-late seral</p> <p>SENSITIVE BIRD OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Emphasize high structure Emphasize mid-late seral</p> <p>STREAM OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Meet or move toward Proper Functioning Condition on streams currently Functional At Risk, may require monitoring to determine trend</p> <p>Abbreviations used are: PFC – Proper Functioning Condition FAR – Functional At Risk FAR-NA – Functional At Risk Trend Not Apparent FAR-U – Functional At Risk Upward Trend FAR-D – Functional At Risk Downward Trend</p> <p>DROUGHT PRIORITY AREA OBJECTIVES</p> <p>During drought, emphasize these areas for retention of 10% high structure (10% of herbaceous communities over the entire project area) – See drought strategy in the details of Alternative 3.</p>	<p>GROUSE NESTING AREA</p> <p>The area within a 1-mile radius of a known grouse lek, which is where female grouse are most likely to nest</p> <p>Part or all of the 1-mile radius nest area may be in the allotment</p> <p>The lek itself may or may not be in the allotment</p> <p>STRUCTURE</p> <p>Refers to height and density of herbaceous-dominated communities</p> <p>Structure levels are low, moderate and high</p> <p>Surveys were done to determine structure levels in 2001 and 2002</p> <p>Structure levels displayed in the table indicate what dominates on the allotment based on the above surveys</p> <p>DELAYED GRAZING</p> <p>Grazing does not occur until after June 15</p> <p>These areas were not grazed much past October of the previous year</p>	<p>DROUGHT STRATEGY</p> <p>See the details of Alternative 3 for a complete description of the drought strategy</p> <p>The drought strategy applies throughout the project area, however, retention of herbaceous structure for wildlife habitat will be emphasized in identified drought priority areas</p>	<p>MAINTAIN CURRENT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Continue livestock management that has been occurring over the last 3 to 5 years, or implement similar strategies</p> <p>ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>If monitoring indicates that the initial proposal (which may be continue current management, or another proposal) is not working to move the allotment and project area toward desired conditions, then managers will implement the proposals identified under adaptive management</p> <p>If more than one adaptive management proposal is identified, managers may choose any of them to implement</p> <p>Implementation of adaptive management proposals will be documented in the annual operating instructions</p>
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Table 2 continued: Allotment-specific desired conditions and proposed actions.

ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
12-1 3 units 8,510 FS acres 3,073 pvt and state acres	Stream objectives Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives Sensitive bird objectives Drought priority area objectives Maintain water sources similar to current Increase residual cover on crested wheatgrass in north unit	2004 PFC surveys indicate that Sand Creek is either at PFC or in an upward trend except for reaches affected by an old oil well road, and Bernts Creek is at PFC or in an upward trend except for one reach 6 grouse nesting areas Known sensitive butterfly areas Sensitive bird species known Moderate and high structure dominate Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing on ~60% of the allotment 1 water source on private land has been fenced out Drought priority areas (large percentage of allotment) North unit crested wheatgrass has late range-ready date because of concentrated use in areas	Improve Bernts Creek reach that is FAR-Downward Trend and continue to monitor Bernts and Sand Creeks Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain or enhance known sensitive butterfly habitat Maintain current management relative to turn-on dates Maintain similar pattern of water developments for grazing distribution Improve utilization of crested wheatgrass in north unit Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Bernts Creek – herd cattle away from creek downstream of electric fence <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - <i>Coordinate with State to fence portions of the FAR-Downward Trend stream section (most of the stream section is on State land within the allotment)</i> Sand Creek – Maintain current management, monitor 0008 reach for trend <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - <i>Ride during hottest season and fall to get cattle out of creek</i> - <i>Build enclosures on portions of creek in worst condition</i> - <i>Develop water away from creek</i> Structure – Maintain current management, monitor <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - <i>Manage electric fence for structure concerns (make relative adaptive management adjustments for Bernts Creek)</i> Sensitive butterfly areas <i>Adaptive Management</i> - <i>Decrease livestock utilization days</i> - <i>Use riding to move cattle away from known sensitive butterfly areas</i> - <i>Fence out known butterfly areas</i> Develop water in North unit while considering desired conditions for known butterfly areas Develop water on federal in vicinity of private, fenced-out water. Apply drought strategy

NE McKenzie Allotment Management Plan Revisions - Record of Decision

ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
12-2 1 unit 2,101 FS acres 745 pvt acres	Improve species composition and plant density	Low species composition and plant density in areas High density of oil wells and roads Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages Substantial amount of inaccessible rangeland Recent improvement in species composition and plant density due to increased riding and change of livestock class to include some yearlings Cross fence exists but not being used, run as 1 unit	Improve species composition and plant density Monitor need for cross fence Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Continue use of riding and yearlings to increase species composition and plant density <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Change livestock utilization days Continually assess need for cross fence <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Remove fence if it begins to deteriorate and is determined unnecessary Apply drought strategy
12-3 3 units 6,225 FS acres 520 pvt and state acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives Maintain or improve health of bur oak stands	3 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure dominate Mid and late seral stages Known sensitive butterfly areas Delayed grazing in 2 of 3 units Bur oak stands present, particularly in south end of SE unit Heavy utilization in northern "bottleneck" area of SE unit	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain or enhance known sensitive butterfly habitat Reduce cattle impacts to bur oak stands as necessary to promote regeneration Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Decrease livestock utilization days in SE unit - Use riding to move cattle away from south end of SE unit where there are known sensitive butterfly areas and bur oak stands - Develop alternate water source(s) to draw cattle away from south end of SE unit - Fence out butterfly habitat and/or bur oak stands Apply drought strategy (We are not addressing the high use in bottleneck area because of the overriding need to address sensitive butterfly habitat on other end of unit.)

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ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
12-5 3 units 2,796 FS acres 675 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives Drought priority area objectives Riparian objectives	4 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing in 2 of 3 units Springs and bogs used as water sources, may be impacted Known sensitive butterfly areas within 1/8 mile on adjacent allotment Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Evaluate wetlands for cattle impacts and need for change Further evaluate known butterfly area Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Develop alternative water sources to help protect bogs and springs - Promote light grazing near butterfly area Apply drought strategy
12-7 8 units 3,572 FS acres 634 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives Drought priority area objectives Better distribution of grazing in units A, G, H	3 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing on 5 Known sensitive butterfly areas Unit A has underutilized crested wheatgrass on western half, "wooly6" plants Drought priority area Water sources in units G and H freeze in fall, reducing use Small B unit concentrates cattle use causing over utilization in woody draw and riparian areas	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain or enhance sensitive butterfly habitat Treat unpalatable crested wheatgrass in west side of unit A Extend season of use in units G and H Relieve pressure on woody draw/riparian areas in B unit Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Combine B and C units (keep fence to allow flexibility during drought) <i>Adaptive Management to increase palatability of crested wheatgrass and cattle use on west 1/2 of A unit:</i> - Prescribed burn or mow - Develop water source in west side of unit A Continue existing water pipeline from D unit to develop tanks on fence lines between F&G units and G&H units Apply drought strategy
12-8 2 units 976 FS acres 2,233 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives	4 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure dominate Mid and late seral stages Known sensitive butterfly areas within 1/8 mile on adjacent allotment	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Further evaluate known butterfly area Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Promote light grazing near butterfly area Apply drought management
12-9 1 units 45 FS acres 545 pvt acres	Provide landscape diversity for plant composition and structure	0 grouse nesting areas Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages	Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
12-10 1 units 40 FS acres 642 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives	1 grouse nesting area Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages Sensitive and candidate butterfly species found within ~1/8 mile to the north	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Further evaluate known butterfly area Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Promote light grazing near butterfly area Apply drought strategy

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ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
12-11 2 unit 387 FS acres 187 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives	1 grouse nesting area Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing on native unit Headquarters allotment	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain fall structure for spring nesting on native unit Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
12-12 1 unit 558 FS acres 212 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	1 grouse nesting area Moderate and high structure Mid and late seral stages Drought priority area Delayed grazing occurs	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
12-13 1 unit 154 FS acres 1 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	1 grouse nesting area High structure Mid and late seral stages Drought priority area Delayed grazing Headquarters allotment	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain fall structure for spring nesting on native unit Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
12-14 1 unit 49 FS acres 0 pvt acres	Provide landscape diversity for plant composition and structure	0 grouse nesting areas High structure Mid and late seral stages	Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
12-15 1 unit 40 FS acres 0 pvt acres	Provide landscape diversity for plant composition and structure	0 grouse nesting areas Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages	Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
13-1 7 units 6,819 FS acres 586 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives Sensitive bird objectives Drought priority area objectives	7 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure dominate Mid and late seral stages Known sensitive butterfly areas Known nesting of sensitive birds Delayed grazing in all 3 native-grass units (other units are crested wheatgrass) Birt Hills Overlook recreation site within the allotment Drought priority areas	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain or enhance sensitive butterfly habitat Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy Adaptive Management to better utilize crested wheatgrass (allowing more deferment of native species): - Convert existing electric fence to permanent - Develop water in west side of E unit

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ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
13-2 2 units 904 FS acres 811 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Improve plant species composition Drought priority area objectives	1 grouse nesting area Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages No delayed grazing because even though there are two units, they are being run together as a season-long system Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Change grazing to season long system (already occurring) using turn-on/turn-off of tanks to get some rotation of cattle through allotment <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Reduce livestock utilization days Apply drought strategy
13-4 2 units 863 FS acres 117 pvt acres	Improve species composition and residual cover in west side of common unit (bottleneck/riparian area)	0 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure Mid and late seral stages Bottleneck in west area of common unit concentrates use causing species composition shift to lower seral and reducing residual cover	Reduce heavy use in west side of common unit – bottleneck area	Maintain current management with the following changes: Develop water source on east side of common unit to draw cattle away from bottleneck. <i>Adaptive Management:</i> -Construct ~1/4 mile of cross fence to provide better control of use in bottleneck area Apply drought strategy
13-5 5 units 4,877 FS acres 1,842 pvt acres	Stream objectives Grouse habitat objectives Improve species diversity and plant density Drought priority area objectives	2004 PFC survey on Bartall Creek found the creek to be at PFC 4 grouse nesting areas Moderate structure dominates Mid and late seral stages Lack of plant species diversity and density Switched from 4-pasture deferred with private to partial twice-over system in 2003 Drought priority area 0 grouse nesting areas Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Implement full twice-over system in A, B and C units – requires water development on west side of C unit <i>Adaptive Management to increase high structure:</i> - Decrease livestock utilization days Apply drought strategy
13-6 3 units 202 FS acres 893 pvt acres	Provide landscape diversity for plant composition and structure	1 grouse nesting area High structure Mid and late seral stages Headquarters allotment Grouse nest area allowed grazing access in late fall/winter in conjunction with private land, but it receives little actual use Drought priority area	Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
13-7 2 units 257 FS acres 479 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	1 grouse nesting area High structure Mid and late seral stages Headquarters allotment Grouse nest area allowed grazing access in late fall/winter in conjunction with private land, but it receives little actual use Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Make sure west unit structure is available for nesting birds in the spring Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy

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ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
13-8 2 units 2,563 FS acres 2,808 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	5 grouse nesting areas Moderate structure dominates Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing in one unit Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management. <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Tank on/off scheduling to rotate cattle within units - Reduce livestock utilization days Apply drought strategy
13-9 2 units 926 FS acres 1578 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	3 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure dominate Mid and late seral stages Little use on west unit because of associated cropland Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
13-10 1 units 626 FS acres 237 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	3 grouse nesting areas High and moderate structure Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing some years in rotation with private land Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
13-11 1 units 40 FS acres 700 pvt acres	Provide landscape diversity for plant composition and structure	This allotment is 40 acres, isolated from other federal land No lek surveys done No VOR surveys done Mid and late seral stages 1986 AMP indicates good to excellent range condition	No need for change	Maintain current management

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ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
14-1 5 units 5,382 FS acres 1,649 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Sensitive butterfly objectives Maintain or improve health of rare plant communities Maintain integrity of 2 unique wetlands MA 2.4 objectives Drought priority area objectives	4 grouse nesting areas Moderate and high structure Mid and late seral stages Known sensitive butterfly areas Delayed grazing, but not in all units with grouse nesting areas Bur oak present, stands have low to moderate regeneration Unique wetlands being impacted by cattle MA 2.4 Drought priority areas	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Maintain or enhance known sensitive butterfly habitat Delay grazing in portions of nest areas each year Reduce cattle impacts to bur oak stands as necessary to promote regeneration Protect 2 unique wetlands Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Adjust use in the summer pasture to keep cattle away from unique wetlands in the south end of the unit -or- Fence the 2 wetlands to exclude cattle Change utilization days for the Day Place to ensure delayed grazing occurs every other year Monitor butterfly habitat Adaptive Management: - Decrease livestock utilization days - Use riding to move cattle away from known sensitive butterfly areas - Fence out known sensitive butterfly areas Monitor cattle use in bur oak stands Adaptive Management: - Change livestock utilization days - Ride to keep cattle out of stands - Remove or turn off water sources near bur oak stands - Fence out bur oak stands Apply drought strategy
14-2 1 unit 160 FS acres 360 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives MA 2.4 objectives	1 grouse nesting area Moderate and high structure Mid and late seral stages No delayed grazing Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Incorporate some delayed grazing Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management with the following changes: Delay grazing until June 15 one out of three years Graze to allow for re-growth to meet structure objectives. Apply drought strategy Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
14-3 3 units 1,849 FS acres 1,110 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives MA 2.4 objectives Drought priority area objectives	3 grouse nesting areas High and moderate structure Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing on 2 of 3 units Drought priority areas MA 2.4 in southern 2 units	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Apply drought strategy Maintain current management Apply drought strategy
14-4 1 unit 203 FS acres 201 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	Two grouse nesting areas High and moderate structure Mid and late seral stages No delayed grazing, but it is occurring in the grouse nest areas in adjacent allotments Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Emphasize mid and late seral Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management Apply drought strategy

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ALLOTMENT	DESIRED CONDITION	EXISTING CONDITION	NEED FOR ACTION	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT
14-5 1 unit 322 FS acres 147 pvt acres	Grouse habitat objectives Drought priority area objectives	1 grouse nesting area Moderate structure Mid and late seral stages Delayed grazing Drought priority area	Emphasize moderate and high structure Implement drought strategy	Maintain current management <i>Adaptive Management:</i> - Change livestock utilization days Apply drought strategy

